

## N. Recreation

### Environmental Setting

#### Recreation

The City of Eureka is located along California's north coast and is in proximity to several national and state parks. These parks include Redwood National Park, Six Rivers National Forest, Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Patrick's Point State Park, and Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Together, these parks provide tens of thousands of acres of public recreation land. The City of Eureka General Plan (General Plan) characterizes these national and state parks as regional parks, or parks that serve populations that can reach the facility within one-hour of driving time (City of Eureka, 2008).

Within the City of Eureka there are approximately 148 acres of neighborhood and community parks, as well as other recreational facilities, such as golf courses, the Adorni Recreation Center, youth centers, the Elk River Wildlife Area, the Del Norte Street Pier, the Woodley Island Marina boat ramps, marshes, and plazas.

According to the General Plan, a neighborhood park is designed to serve a population of between 3,000 and 8,000, and is intended to serve the needs of residents living within one-half to three-quarters of a mile from the park. A neighborhood park is generally between 1 and 5 acres in size, and typically includes tot lots, children's play structures, and unlighted sports fields and/or courts.

A community park generally serves the needs of residents residing within three-quarters to 2 miles of the park, and is intended to serve a population of between 8,000 and 20,000. Community parks typically range from 30 to 50 acres in size, and include large landscaped areas, restrooms, lighted sports fields, and specialized equipment and resources not found in neighborhood parks. They may also include community centers and swimming pools.

According to the General Plan, the City has a goal of a neighborhood park ratio of 1 acre per 1,000 residents, and a community park ratio of 3 acres per 1,000 residents. Based on an existing population of about 26,381, the ratio of community and neighborhood park space to residents is approximately 5.6 acres per 1,000 residents (City of Eureka, 2008; California Department of Finance, 2005).

### Environmental Analysis

#### Significance Criteria

For the purposes of this EIR, implementation of the proposed project would have a significant effect on recreation if, based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, it would:

1. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated; or

2. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

## **Regulatory Framework**

The following standards and regulations govern recreation, and are used to measure impacts.

### ***General Plan and Local Coastal Program***

The City of Eureka's adopted General Plan and adopted Local Coastal Program together formalize a long-term vision for the physical evolution of Eureka and they outline the policies, standards, and programs that guide day-to-day decisions concerning Eureka's development in the coastal zone. The Policy Consistency Analysis found in Section IV.I, *Land Use and Planning*, provides an evaluation of the Marina Center project's conformity with the policies of the adopted General Plan and Land Use Plan portion of the adopted Local Coastal Program.

### ***Coastal Zoning Regulations***

The Coastal Zoning regulations which implement the policies of the Land Use Plan portion of the adopted Local Coastal Program are codified in Chapter 156 of the Eureka Municipal Code (EMC), and are also referenced as Article 29, Part 1, Section 10-5.29 et. seq. of the zoning regulations of the City for the coastal zone.

### ***Zoning Regulations***

The Zoning Regulations of the City of Eureka are found in Chapter 155 of the EMC and are adopted pursuant to the City Charter to protect the public health, safety, peace, comfort, convenience, prosperity and general welfare.

## **Project Impacts**

### **Impact N-1: Would the Marina Center project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?**

The proposed project would increase the permanent on-site population, thus increase the demand for parks and recreation facilities. As discussed in the setting section, there are ample parks and open spaces serving the City of Eureka. This is due, in part, to the City's proximity to thousands of acres of state and national parks as well as the provision of local parks and recreation facilities. With an existing population of 26,381 and approximately 148 acres of neighborhood and community parks, the City currently provides approximately 5.6 acres of park space per 1,000 residents and exceeds the City standards identified in the General Plan.

While the new resident population that would occur as a result of the proposed project would increase use of City parks and recreation facilities, the proposed project would not affect the existing ratio of park space per 1,000 residents.

### **Mitigation**

None recommended.

### **Finding of Significance**

The potential for the Marina Center project to increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated would be a *less-than-significant* impact.

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### **Impact N-2: Would the Marina Center project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?**

The proposed project would provide new recreational facilities, including a pedestrian and bicycle path adjacent to Waterfront Drive that would provide a recreational opportunity for the on-site population as well as the larger community. The proposed pedestrian and bicycle path would be constructed along the western and northern perimeter of the project site near Waterfront Drive, but not within the public street right-of-way. In addition, the project would include the development of a wetland preserve that would indirectly provide some recreational facilities through construction of seating areas, interpretive signage and trails around the buffer area of the wetland preserve. The construction of the recreational facilities would not have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

### **Mitigation**

None recommended.

### **Finding of Significance**

The potential for the Marina Center project to require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that would have an adverse physical effect on the environment would be *less than significant*.

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## **Cumulative Impacts**

### **Impact N-3: Would the Marina Center project, when combined with other foreseeable development in the vicinity, result in adverse cumulative impacts on recreational resources?**

The proposed project, in conjunction with reasonably foreseeable future projects, could result in a cumulative increase in the demand for parks and recreational facilities. The project site is located in an area adequately served by existing regional, community and neighborhood parks and recreational facilities. The development of the project and other reasonably foreseeable future projects in the vicinity would be incremental and the project would not, by itself, trigger the need

for the expansion of recreational resources and facilities. Furthermore, the project and other reasonably foreseeable future projects would be required to provide publicly accessible open spaces. Therefore, the effect of the proposed project on recreational resources, in combination with other foreseeable projects, would be less than significant.

### **Mitigation**

None recommended.

### **Finding of Significance**

The project would have a *less-than-significant* impact on recreational resources and would not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to recreational resources impacts.

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## **References – Recreation**

City of Eureka, *City of Eureka General Plan*, Adopted February 1997, amended through April 2008.

City of Eureka, *Eureka Redevelopment Final Program EIR*, prepared by Environmental Science Associates (ESA), January 10, 2005.

City of Eureka, *Eureka Municipal Code*, Adopted May 1966, amended through April 2008.

State of California, Department of Finance, *E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001-2005, with 2000 DRU Benchmark*. Sacramento, California, May 2005.